



sistent winds. A series of hard frosts followed a warm March which had made vegetation bloom several weeks early. The first frost came April 12-13, another April 30-May 1, and the third May 12-13. A series of less severe frosts continued until May 30 in the north. Almost all the fruit crop was killed; pecans and grapes at Las Cruces, N. Mex. were severely damaged; buds on trees were killed; and lilacs and other flowering shrubs were badly hurt. Later frosts delayed the appearance of new growth and caused leaves to open slowly. It was "the coldest April on record and May 1 in 52 years" (UEM) and "the coldest in my 20 years here" (ES).

It was also dry. Many areas received less than an inch of precipitation after January, and the press called it the driest year since 1906. Numerous forest areas were closed owing to the extreme fire hazard, which was said to be the highest in 20 years (JAB). Two costly fires burned in the Lincoln Nat'l Forest west of Roswell, N. Mex. and many lesser ones were reported.

Most observers were enthusiastic about the migration. With almost no growth and the disappearance of ponds in dry areas, birds concentrated in the irrigated valleys. Cold fronts produced an exceptionally good migration with such comments from observers as "more birds passing through than in recent years" (RLC); "... came through in several distinct waves" (CGH); "... interesting with some real finds" (APN); "migration through foothills ... better than usual, especially of warblers, tanagers, and buntings" (FT); "largest numbers moving through, May 15 to 19; very busy days with 350 banded of 56 species from mid-March to mid-May" (BM); and "best migration in a decade with waves of warblers and other passerines on the weekend of May 7 and to a lesser extent on May 14" (DAZ). There also was a good flight on May 3-4 at Las Cruces, a tremendous wave at Glenwood, N. Mex. on the night of May 14, and a steady stream in Santa Fe on May 5 (PRS).

East of the mountains things were perhaps slower. At Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., "warbler movement seemed sparse, with the whole migration a little light" (RHW). At Roswell, "migration was orderly with no abrupt spurts or stops. The peak came April 30 to May 11 with a steady showing of regu-

**SOUTHWEST REGION.**—After an unseasonably mild winter, spring was unusually cool with per-

lars and some rarities." (VM).

After some very early arrivals in March and the early departure of some winter residents, the cold weather held up migration, with most species "peaking" later than normal and lingering until June. Many highland species stayed in the lowlands all spring, even in the south. Cedar Waxwings, Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches, and Red Crossbills were found.

Especially heavy flights were noted for most species of flycatchers, except the Ash-throated; for vireos and warblers, especially Wilson's, MacGillivray's, and Audubon's Warblers; and for Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Green-tailed Towhees, and sparrows. A very late but good swallow flight lasted into June.

Many eastern stragglers were reported this spring, primarily in the week of May 1 to 7. Especially numerous were reports of Swainson's Thrushes, Northern Waterthrushes, Myrtle Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows. Black-and-white Warblers, Parula Warblers, Nashville Warblers, Am. Redstarts, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings also were recorded.

Here are a few of the highlights of an exciting season:

**Hérons, Ibis**—A Com. Egret seen on April 22 near Gila Bend, Ariz. was standing far from water in open creosote-saguaro desert in apparent good health (RLC). There were more reports than usual of Snowy Egrets and White-faced Ibis.

**Hawks**—At Big Bend Nat'l Park, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks on April 2 and 1 on April 7 and a White-tailed Hawk on April 25 were first records. Falcons were in good numbers there (RHW); and more records than usual came in of Peregrine Falcons. One to 3 Ospreys were seen near Phoenix, April 4 and 18, and this species was thought to be increasing (SRD). Another Osprey was at Farmington, N. Mex. on April 20 and one was near Patagonia, Ariz. on May 6 (KRS).

**Turkeys, Quail**—Scaled and Gambel's Quail are still "holding their own" in numbers. More Turkeys were reported near Silver City, N. Mex., probably coming in to water.

**Gallinules, Shorebirds, Jaegers**—A Purple Gallinule was at Big Bend Park on May 20 (RHW). Most shorebirds went through in April. On April 20 Semipalmated Plovers were at Farmington and on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma Co., Ariz. (RLC). Three Dunlins in full breeding plumage were at Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Chaves Co., N. Mex. on April 11, and a *Pomarine Jaeger* was photographed there on May 6-7 (VM, et al.). One to 3 Sanderlings were observed near Farmington from April 20 to May 6. Two spring-plumaged Northern Phalaropes were at San Ildefonso Pueblo, N. Mex., May 18 (PRS, BJH, MAC).

**Owls, Swifts**—There were more reports of the uncommon Flammulated Owl than usual, with 10 banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., April 16-May 16 (BM). Fourteen Black Swifts with a *Chaetura* (sp.) were seen near Gila, N. Mex., May 31. Also 2 *Chaetura* (sp.) were observed near Deming, N. Mex.,

May 27 (JPH), and a Vaux's Swift was seen at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ariz., April 12 (RLC).

**Thrushes**—An albino Robin was seen in May at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Ariz. (HB, fide BAL). An unbanded *Rufous-backed Robin* in Phoenix on April 17 was not the same one seen in Carefree, Ariz. last winter (SRD). Rarities were a Wood Thrush at Big Bend Park on April 4; a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Roswell on May 4 (JHS) and 2 at El Paso, Tex., May 11-13 (MBK, CM, fide LA); and a *Vireo on the Desert Game Range, Nev., April 30-May 16* (CGH, et al.).

**Phainopeplas, Starlings**—Phainopeplas were thought to have increased near Globe, Ariz., but were absent around Silver City (RAF). There has been an alarming increase of Starlings. They now breed down the Rio Grande Valley at least to Las Cruces, in the Silver City area, at Globe and Phoenix, and at Las Vegas, N. Mex. A pair stayed in Magdalena, N. Mex., for the first time (JAB), and the first record for Big Bend Park was on April 18.

**Warblers**—Among the many rarities recorded were a Tennessee Warbler on May 4 at Silver City, where it was found in 1964 (DAZ); a Prothonotary Warbler April 29-May 7 and a Kentucky Warbler April 28-May 5 at Roswell (VM, et al.); a Worm-eating Warbler at Big Bend Park on May 4; a *Magnolia Warbler* photographed at Cedar Crest on May 4 for the first New Mexico record; and a Hooded Warbler at El Paso, April 23-24. There were several reports of Townsend's Warblers and a "surprising number" of Hermit Warblers near Phoenix, one near Wickenburg, Ariz., April 15 (RPN), and one seen near Globe on April 12 (IT). One or 2 Ovenbirds were near Roswell, May 6-13, and at Cedar Crest, May 21.

**Cowbirds, Finches**—Bronzed Cowbirds were reported as spreading at Tucson (FT), Phoenix, and up to Globe and were seen at Redrock, N. Mex. in late May for the first Gila Valley record in that state (JPH). There were a few reports of Purple Finches and Lawrence's Goldfinches from Arizona.

**Sparrows**—Black-chinned Sparrows seem to be increasing their range in recent years. This year they were found near Phoenix (SRD); near Cloudcroft, N. Mex. (VM); and at Globe (SVVH, BJ). A Harris' Sparrow was in Tucson, April 29 to May 16 (ASW, BH, et al.). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows wintered at Tucson until April 17 (ASW) and at Quitobaquito until April 26 (RLC).

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